

Karabagh. In order to build on the progress made last year, I hope my colleagues who serve on the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs will consider the following proposals.

First, I urge an earmark of not less than \$100 million to Armenia to promote economic development, trade, and increase U.S. investment. Because Armenia is largely cut off from the west due to the Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades, U.S. assistance has played a vital role in helping this small landlocked Nation to survive. Despite the hardships caused by the blockades, Armenia has registered strong economic growth, with the private sector accounting for a large and growing share of GDP.

Furthermore, aid to Armenia is strictly monitored and effectively implemented. Earlier this year Armenia's voters had successful presidential elections, further proof of the impressive development of a multi-party democracy.

I also urge the subcommittee to build upon its historic achievement in the fiscal year 1998 bill to earmark assistance to Nagorno Karabagh at \$20 million. This mountainous Republic is indeed a functioning society, a fact attested to by members of the USAID team that visited Karabagh to conduct a needs assessment pursuant to the fiscal year 1998 bill.

Unfortunately, our State Department has apparently interpreted the provision of aid to the victims of the Karabagh conflict, contrary to the intent of the subcommittee, as referring also to expanding existing funds for Azerbaijan's needs.

I would urge the subcommittee to build on the fine precedent it established last year by increasing the earmark for Nagorno Karabagh, specifying that the funds are targeted for use within Nagorno Karabagh and further broadening the scope of assistance to Karabagh to include the reconstruction of infrastructure damaged during the war.

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I also believe we must maintain, without any exemptions, Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, which became law in 1992. We must not allow any weakening or other ways of getting around the requirements of Section 907.

In addition, I believe we should require the administration to report to Congress on what steps it is taking to ensure Azerbaijan's compliance with the conditions of Section 907.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, in keeping with this goal of attaching tough but fair conditions to the provision of U.S. aid, we should retain the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act. This act became law in 1996, and I believe, as most Americans, that countries that block the delivery of U.S. humanitarian assistance to other countries should not themselves receive assistance from the United States.

While the Corridor Act provision does not single out any countries, it would clearly affect the Republic of Turkey, which has imposed a blockade on Armenia since April of 1993. Given Turkey's failure to abide by the requirements of the Corridor Act, I urge the subcommittee consider tightening the provisions by removing or at least strictly limiting the current broad discretion of the Presidential waiver.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW MEXICO'S NEW CONGRESSWOMAN, HEATHER WILSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, we have great news from the State of New Mexico. My district is in the State of Colorado and as many of us know, we lost our colleague Steve Schiff who represented very ably over the years the First Congressional District of the State of New Mexico.

After his passing, the Governor of the State called for a special election. And last night, the people of New Mexico made a very good, good decision. They are sending to Washington, DC a very capable, very competent, very energetic, very dedicated and very patriotic brand-new Congressman.

That Congressperson is Heather Wilson. Heather Wilson is the mother of three children, Joshua, Caitlin and Scott. Congresswoman Wilson is 37 years old. She will be sworn in tomorrow. She is married to an Albuquerque gentleman by the name of Jay Hone.

She is a distinguished graduate of the United States Air Force Academy. She is a Rhodes Scholar who earned her master's and doctoral degrees in Oxford University in England. Her dissertation, "International Law and the use of Force by National Liberation Movements," was published as a book and won the Paul Reuter Prize from the International Community of the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland.

For 7 years, Heather Wilson lived and worked in Europe. She was a negotiator and defense planning officer with the United States Air Force in England, where her work included negotiating all aspects of cruise missile deployment in Britain and managing to bring a \$125 million construction project to completion on time and under budget.

She then went to the United States Mission of NATO in Belgium where her work included arms control negotiations. She was the acting representative of the Secretary of Defense at the Conventional Forces in Europe, CFE, and handled negotiations in Vienna, Austria.

After leaving the Air Force in 1989, Heather became the Director for European Defense Policy and Arms Control on the National Security Council staff at White House.

In 1991, Wilson founded Keystone International, Inc., in Albuquerque to work with senior executives and large American defense and scientific corporations with business development and program planning work in the United States and Russia.

Keystone's clients included McGraw-Hill, Martin-Marrietta and others. Heather has written for the Wall Street Journal and publications specializing in foreign policy and defense issues, and has been a spokesman on those issues at Harvard University, the Military Academy at West Point, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and other organizations.

She has also appeared on national television programs including Firing Line and CNN's Crier and Company.

She is active in civic affairs. Heather is a licensed foster parent, a member of the Albuquerque Kiwanis Club, and Kiwanians throughout New Mexico ought to be proud of what she did yesterday and who is going to represent their State.

She is a strong advocate for improved public schools. She was a bronze medalist in the 1990 American Rowing Championships.

What is exciting about Heather is not only her background, which is fairly extensive as I read by this resume, but the excitement that she reflects. One can tell by just talking with Heather how thrilled and honored she is to represent the fine State of New Mexico.

So New Mexico, despite the fact that there were some people who ran a very, very negative nasty campaign against her, her positive attitude, her "can do" attitude, her personality, clearly her background is what prevailed in that election.

Mr. Speaker, it shows that negative elections do not prevail. We can tell just by talking to her, just how excited and how positive this person is. That is what this Congress is made up of, a lot of people. That is what is should be totally made of.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to see that tomorrow New Mexico will have a new United States Congressman sworn in. They have a lot to be proud of. I can tell my friends in New Mexico, as their neighbor from the north in Colorado and on behalf of all of my colleagues, we are thrilled to see their new Congressman in Washington, DC.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act and increased funding for the Older Americans Act programs.

These programs, like Meals on Wheels, Senior Employment Service, Elder Abuse Prevention, they work. They help meet a critical need in a